

It has been announced that Sinclair Broadcast Group is forcing its affiliate stations to preempt regularly scheduled programs to air the anti-Kerry story "Stolen Honor" just days before the presidential election. This so-called "documentary" about John Kerry and his Vietnam War experience, is a perfect example of one-sided broadcasting. Most Americans who value a balanced media would be equally upset to see a liberal documentary like "Fahrenheit 9/11" being forced on station affiliates. Think what you will of John Kerry and George Bush, neither "Stolen Honor" nor "Fahrenheit 9/11" amounts to news. I believe that the airing of either program is an irresponsible use of the public airwaves

Sinclair's explanation of their decision is to call this documentary a news item. However, this is the same company that refused to allow their ABC affiliates to air the Nightline Episode of some months ago when Ted Koppel read the names of soldiers killed to date in Iraq. At the time, they deemed it too politically motivated.

Their flip-flop on the subject of politically motivated broadcasting is not only hypocritical, it's damaging to a fair and democratic process.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.